

**Suggested Remarks**  
**Daryl R. Veal, USAID**  
**Closing Ceremony of the Basic Financial**  
**Investigative Course**  
**14 July 2006, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Virata Hall, 2/F Development Academy of the**  
**Philippines**  
**Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

The President of the Development Academy of the Philippines, Antonio Kalaw; Tanodbayan Merceditas Gutierrez (tentative); Commissioner on Audit Juanito Espinosa; Internal Revenue Assistant Commissioners Celia King and Estela Sales; Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon.

On behalf of the US government team working in the Philippines, I thank you for inviting me to the closing ceremonies of this important training class. Graduates - through this class, you have learned how financial crimes are committed, how to investigate these crimes, and most of all, you have learned to work together for a common goal - - the successful prosecution

of financial criminals whether or not it is related to tax fraud, tax evasion, public corruption or money laundering.

The Government of the Philippines has concentrated on identifying and successfully prosecuting what are called "big fish" criminals. I may not be a fisherman but that surely makes sense to me. We hope that you will soon have the regulatory ability to wring ill-gotten gains out of the fish prior to placing it in the frying pan through the use of asset forfeiture and disgorgement.

The need for thorough investigation of these financial crimes is crucial for successful prosecution. Thorough investigation can be facilitated by working together.

This is the first implementation of a new training program developed in partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines and I am sure that it represents the finest training that can be provided. We hope to continue this partnership to develop other training classes.

This basic financial investigative course not only gives its graduates two academic units towards a Masters Degree in Public Management at the Development Academy of the Philippines, but it is also an initial step towards institutionalizing inter-agency cooperation.

Intermediate and advance investigative training will follow and we hope you will all be trained together. Through inter-agency training, we

hope to contribute in strengthening inter-agency cooperation against corruption.

On behalf of the U.S. Government Team working in the Philippines, USAID is pleased to support endeavors such as this training program that aim at making financial crime and public corruption high risk and low reward activities.

As we close this graduation ceremony, congratulations to the first graduates of the basic financial investigation course!